IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting a chain of database management messages between a management ~~centre~~ center and a plurality of distributed subscriber databases,

wherein each management message member of this chain comprises a chain header, a chain identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

creating a conditional block for each management message member of said chain, the conditional block indicating ~~effective for determining~~ whether ~~this current~~ the management message member associated with the conditional block is to be processed without reference[[s]] to all or part of other message members of the chain, and in the negative event, effective for defining conditions linked to a previous processing of all or part of other message[[s]] members of the chain; [[and]]

[[(b)]] adding said conditional block to each of said respective management message members of said chain; [[and]]

transmitting the chain of database management messages between a management ~~centre~~ center and a plurality of distributed subscriber databases;

determining at a subscriber database whether processing of a received message is subject to a condition in the corresponding conditional block;

if the processing of the received message is not subject to a condition, immediately processing said message;

if the received message is subject to a condition, determining whether the condition has been fulfilled;

if the condition has been fulfilled, immediately processing said message;

if the condition has not fulfilled, locally storing said message.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A·method according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the method comprises the steps of:

managing a table in the subscriber database containing an information representing a processing state of each member of the chain,

updating said table every time that a member of the chain is processed, and

resetting said table either on request of the managing ~~eentre~~ center or after a predefined

time.

4 (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subscriber database is connected to a subscriber unit and wherein it comprises the step of storing the management messages in a memory of the subscriber unit and of presenting them on request to the subscriber database.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the method comprises the steps of storing incoming messages in series, each incoming message causing an increment of a stack pointer of incoming messages, and of allowing a direct access to the messages requested by the subscriber database.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the memory of the subscriber unit is configured as a serial buffer memory having a fixed length.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the method comprises the steps of receiving in the subscriber database, a message member of a chain, and of allocating in the subscriber unit, the memory necessary for receiving all the members of this chain.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the method comprises the steps of requesting the subscriber module to compose a management message describing its software and hardware resources and of sending said message either to the subscriber database or to the management ~~centre~~ center.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the request is transmitted, either by the management ~~centre~~ center under the form of a management message, or by the subscriber database under the form of an instruction on an I/O line.

10. (Currently Amended) A system for processing [[transmitting]] a chain of database management messages, comprising:

(a) a management center adapted to transmit [[send]] said chain of data base management messages, said chain of messages comprising a plurality of management message members, each management message member of the chain comprising a header, a chain identifier, a chain index, and a conditional block indicating whether the current message is to be processed without reference to all or part of the other messages member of the chain, and in the negative event, defining conditions linking the processing of the current message member to the processing of all or part of other message members of the chain;

(b) a plurality of subscriber units, each of the subscriber units adapted to receive said chain of data base management messages, wherein each subscriber unit comprises a subscriber database located in a security module [[;]] and wherein, said subscriber unit is adapted to:

determine whether the processing of a received message is subject to a condition;

if the processing of the received message is not subject to a condition, process said message immediately;

if the received message is subject to a condition, determine whether the condition has been fulfilled;

if the condition has been fulfilled, process the message immediately;

if the condition has not been fulfilled, store the message locally until the condition has been fulfilled.

(c) a message chain comprising a plurality of message members, wherein each message member of the chain comprises a header, a chain identifier, a chain index, and a conditional block effective for determining whether the current message is to be processed without reference to all or part of the other messages member of the chain, and in the negative event, effective for defining conditions linking the processing of the current message member to the processing of all or part of other messages member of the chain.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein the security module includes a message manager able to store in a memory an information representing a processing state of each message of the chain, and wherein [[it]] the security module includes a state comparator adapted to compare said processing state of each message of said chain with the conditions expressed in the conditional block of the message currently processed.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the subscriber unit includes a memory for messages, wherein each incoming message causes the displacement of an input pointer in the memory, and wherein the security module is adapted to read and process these messages.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the subscriber unit includes a connection line towards the security module and wherein said subscriber unit is adapted to determine the size of the memory according to instructions received from the security module and to reply to the security module by composing and sending a management message to said module.

15. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the subscriber unit includes a selection module to operably connect a management message separator, a processing center of the subscriber module, the security module and the memory, and wherein said subscriber unit is adapted to recognize the management messages destined only to the processing center and to forward these messages to the processing center.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting, between a management ~~centre~~ center and a plurality of distributed subscriber databases, a chain of database management messages comprising a plurality of management message members, ~~wherein each management message member comprises a chain header and a chain identifier,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

determining dependencies between management message[[s]] members to be sent as part of [[a]] the chain of management messages ~~members~~, wherein each management message member comprises a chain header and a chain identifier and wherein said chain identifier identifies the order of transmission of said management message members of said chain;

using said dependencies to create a conditional block for each [[a]] management message member, wherein said conditional block determines a permissible

order of processing of each management message member forming a chain of management member messages;

inserting said conditional block into said management message member;

transmitting said management message member <u>from the management center to at least one subscriber database</u>;

<u>determining at the subscriber database whether the processing of each of the management message members received from the management center is subject to a condition;</u>

<u>processing each management message member not subject to a condition immediately;</u>

<u>processing each management message member that is subject to a condition immediately if the condition is fulfilled;</u>

<u>locally storing each management message member that is subject to a condition that has not been fulfilled for processing when the condition has been fulfilled; and</u>

<u>updating</u> ~~wherein said conditional block allows a receiver of said management message members to manage~~ a table in the subscriber database containing an information representing a processing state of [[each]] <u>other</u> member<u>s</u> of the chain.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said conditional block does not require processing of any other management message members of said chain of management message members.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving a chain of database management messages <u>from</u> ~~, between~~ a management ~~centre~~ <u>center at</u> a <u>plurality of distributed</u> subscriber database<u>s</u>, ~~wherein each management message member of said chain comprises a chain header, a chain identifier, and a conditional block~~, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one management message member that is part of said chain of database management messages, wherein each management message member of said chain comprises a chain header, a chain identifier, and a conditional block;

determining whether the processing of each of the management message members received from the management center is subject to a condition in the conditional block;

processing each management message member not subject to a condition immediately;

processing each management message member that is subject to a condition immediately if the condition is fulfilled;

locally storing each management message member that is subject to a condition that has not been fulfilled for processing when the condition has been fulfilled.

~~processing said management message member in accordance with said conditional block.~~

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

creating a processing state table for tracking the processing of said management message member in said chain of database management messages;

managing said processing state table to ensure said received management message member is processed in accordance with said conditional block.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

updating said state table upon successful processing said management message member of said chain.